

Alternative Transportation Ad Hoc Committee
Minutes of Meeting - 11/13/18 - 6pm
Underhill Town Offices

Present: Kurt Johnson (chair), Sara Lourie (secretary), Michael Oman, Jen Smithers, Andrew Albright, Sue Cromwell.

Members:

- Ann Linde has resigned
- Sara Lourie is now secretary
- ***Kurt** will check that Towns want copies of the minutes and put them on websites
- ***Michael** will post links for Underhill and Jericho on respective FPFs, ***Sara** will do same for Cambridge
- ***Everyone** to send their contact info to Kurt

Mission Statement Review:

- Jen suggested: #5 add 'public service'; #2 'limited' access; #3 add 'bus' after 'commuter'
- Michael commented: #3 re public subsidies – if we don't get fairly high fare-box recovery, perhaps we would be better off providing a free service; system-wide ~ 20% comes from fares; fare management costs \$ (counting, security etc); \$2 vs \$1 not a big difference; aware other arrangements possible; better to get passes in people's hands than dealing with fares altogether; Andrew added – we don't want to be subsidizing people using the bus to travel between Essex and Burlington; Sara added – if people do pay at least a nominal fare, they may feel more invested in the service and value it more; 'to seek and implement alternative options'
- Sue suggested: #4 not be limited to commuting only
- Michael suggested: #4 'reduce' parking need
- Sue suggested: #2 include 'flexible, affordable, alternative'
- Michael suggested under Policies to add 'exploration of funding sources'
- ***Kurt** to incorporate suggested edits to Mission Statement. Hopefully it can be ratified at the next meeting.

Transportation Subcommittee Review:

- Michael reported that he attended CATMA Employer Transportation Co-ordinators (ETC) Network meeting last week
- 2 major pieces: 1) State has implemented NuRide (<https://nuride.com/>) that rewards members for greener transportation choices [note that in Vermont it is operated through Go! Vermont (<https://www.connectingcommuters.org/>)]. Operational since September 2018. For carpools and vanpools. Helps match riders and drivers. Geolocated. Has acquired ZimRide's database. Not limited to ride matching. Also includes bus routes, telecommuting, bikes and multimodal routes. Allows partial rides. Could be used incidentally. Not sure if it includes Neighbor Rides Program or SST. Can track all alternative transportation actions with leaderboards and discount incentives.
- ***Everyone** to educate themselves about this online platform before next meeting
- 2) someone from Vermont Creative Workforce Solutions – major programs for lower income Vermonters – talked about providing bikes / taxis to workplaces. Strong support from VTRANS. Not sure whether we as a committee have any role in this program. However, idea of including taxis in plan = good for us too – helpful in cases of weather, distance, timing

- *Sandy Thibault* puts together plans for employers – perhaps she could help us do something similar as a location based group.
- ***AltTrans** committee should join ETC – no cost/fee to join, just need to send names to Sandy, free lunch 2x/year, spring and fall meetings at Champlain College. Sandy also urged Underhill to join as a Town. Since Towns would have to join, it would have to go to Select Board. Suggestion would be for the AltTransComm to be the formal representation from each Town.
- ***Michael** to ask Sandy to write a formal letter to the three Selectboards. ***Kurt** to attend Selectboard Meetings in December to present letter/request.
- Rachel Kennedy (GMT) reported that the #36 bus has experienced a substantial increase in ridership since the schedule has changed. Sue noted that the early bus has few people on it, but the later bus captures people who had previously been riding both early and later bus and there are typically 18 people who board at Underhill Park and Ride, and 19 on way home. Michael also noted that he sees more parked cars there on more days, and that doesn't include those people who are dropped off.
- Sue mentioned that Fanny Allen has a horrific parking issue, because the hospital gave out too many parking permits and have shut down two lots. The shuttle from Fanny Allen now goes all the way to Lakeside (old GE parking lot), which is far less convenient than before and maybe has encouraged more people to take the bus. Employees need to have worked there for 30 years before they are allowed to park on main campus.

Marketing/Promotion:

- We are ready to move into a more promotional mode – pass sales, put together FPF promotion, remind people of alternative options
- Working with Regional Planning to put together a Rural Transit Conference to convene group of experts (GMT, CATMA) to compile what resources are available, people, organizations => resource center
- Kurt said that the State should encourage more groups like ours. Jen reminded group that our Senator (Rich Westman) is on the House Transportation Committee.

Next Meeting:

- we should get back to regular monthly meetings and have breakout subcommittee groups at meetings
- Tues/Wed seem to be the most likely days to meet
- Agenda to include:
 - ratifying Mission Statement
 - parking lot improvements (e.g. by Silos in Jeffersonville)
 - prioritization moving forward

Meeting Adjourned: 7:17pm